

I am very concerned about the growing control industry conglomerates have gained over local media markets. This has been detrimental both artistically and politically. Artistically, we have seen a dirth of coverage of local artists to the point where there is a boring national music play list and no musical excitement or innovation. Politically, Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

I don't know what has happened to the concept of public airways; the airways themselves seem to belong to giant corporations now. Sinclair uses these airwaves free of charge, and, I thought, they were obligated by law to serve the public interest. They don't! When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line or, worse, crackpot control of public discourse instead of what we need for our democracy. I know that with local ownership you can still get crackpot control of media, but at least you get dueling crackpots instead of one single crackpot vision. I would prefer to see news with real people from our my community and I would like more substantive news about issues that matter. With corporate media, we end up with a single point of view dominating national discourse. Corporate media is not free press.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.